

Q1 machine start and stop operations to reduce the likelihood of disturbing the freshly compacted surface and to otherwise generate higher amplitude vibrations to maximize compaction. To achieve this effect, many vibratory trench rollers incorporate a so-called "dual amplitude exciter." A dual amplitude exciter typically has multiple eccentric weights mounted on its rotatable shaft. A first, relatively massive eccentric weight is fixed to the shaft so as to rotate with it. One or more additional, less massive eccentric weights are mounted on the shaft so as to be swingable on it between at least two angular positions. Each of these "free swinging" weights has a tab or other structure that limits the range of rotation relative to the fixed weight when the exciter shaft rotates in a particular direction. When the exciter shaft is driven in a first direction, each free swinging weight swings to a first angular position on the exciter shaft in which its eccentricity adds to the eccentricity of the fixed weight, generating high amplitude vibrations. Conversely, when the exciter shaft is rotated in the opposite direction, each free swinging weight swings to a second angular position on the exciter shaft in which its eccentricity detracts from the eccentricity of the fixed weight, thereby generating low amplitude vibrations. Dual amplitude exciters are disclosed, e.g., in U.S. Patent No. 4,830,534 to Schmelzer et al. and U.S. Patent No. 5,618,133 to Mitsui et al.

Q2 Please replace the paragraph starting at page 6, line 5 with replacement paragraph as follows:

Q2 One possible application for the inventive exciter assembly is a vibratory roller used to compact trenches or other surfaces. In this case, and in accordance with another

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aspect of the invention, the vibratory roller comprises a chassis, at least one drum assembly supporting the chassis on a surface to be compacted, and an exciter assembly. The drum assembly is hollow and has a length corresponding to the width of strip to be compacted. It includes an axle housing and a drum rotatably supported on the axle housing via an axle. The exciter assembly is of the type described above in conjunction with the first aspect of the invention.

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 10, line 16 with replacement paragraph as follows:

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Specifically, referring to Figs. 3 and 4, the front drum assembly 14 includes an axle housing 34 that includes a pair of drum sections 36 and 38. The drum sections 36 and 38 surround opposite sides of the axle housing 34 and are mounted on the axle housing 34 by a common axle 40.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace claims 1-5, 7-18, 20-22, 24, 26-28, and 30 with replacement claims 1-5, 7-18, 20-22, 24, 26-28, and 30 as follows:

- Sub 4 B1
1. (Amended) An exciter assembly for a vibratory roller, comprising:
- (A) an exciter housing;
 - (B) an exciter shaft rotatably journaled in said exciter housing;
 - (C) a fixed eccentric weight rotationally fixed to said exciter shaft;